

## THE

## MEDICAL AND SURGICAL REPORTER.

No. 744.]

PHILADELPHIA, JUNE 3, 1871.

[VOL. XXIV.—No. 22

## ORIGINAL DEPARTMENT.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

## GASTRITIS WITH SINGULTUS.

BY WILLIAM EKWURZEL, M. D.,

Of Frankford, Pa.

I report the following complicated case partly on account of the resemblance it bears, in some respects, to a case reported by Dr. McCULLOCH, in THE REPORTER, No. 741; and partly because I think it may not be entirely devoid of interest to your readers generally. I will not take up valuable space with minute symptoms from day to day, but will give a condensed account, a bird's eye view, of the case from its beginning to its termination.

Was called, May 1st, to see Samuel B., carpet-weaver, age 40; temperate; complaining of pain in right side and slight headache. Was well as usual the day before, and had walked several miles to church and back, though he had "caught cold" in so doing. Regarding his general health, was told that he had for over a year past suffered pain and uneasiness in epigastrium; not influenced by taking food; total want of appetite, having to force down the little he did eat; able to work, fasting all day, and still have no desire for food at night. Found him poorly nourished, thin, bony; face pale, lips bloodless, nose pinched; expression haggard, stupid, as if laboring under some severe shock; never speaking save when spoken to, and then only answering in monosyllables, and very slowly.

His general appearance was so suggestive of shock that I at once asked if he had had a fall, or a blow upon the head, but was told that he had not. Pain in the side constant, sharp; cough moderate; pulse, 100, soft, compressible; respiration, 22. Tongue heavily

coated from tip to root; thirst urgent; patient motioning for ice water every two or three minutes; nausea and vomiting, the stomach rejecting everything but ice water, and sometimes that too. The vomited matters consisted mainly of greenish-yellow mucus, intensely bitter. Marked tenderness in epigastrium; bowels constipated; urine scant and high colored; skin dry; feet cold. Auscultation revealed feeble circumscribed crepitation in lower lobe of right lung; no perceptible dullness on percussion. Ordered appropriate external applications to side and epigastrium, a gentle aperient of potassæ et soda tart., and small doses of morphia to palliate pain and soothe the irritable stomach. Iced milk *ad lib.* In the afternoon his condition was the same. Treatment continued, with addition of enemata. At midnight was called to his bed side in urgent haste, and found him in the agony of the most horrible abdominal pain; at one moment doubling himself up into a ball, and the next throwing his arms about wildly, uttering pitiful groans. On pronouncing it hepatic colic, was informed that he had had the same affection on two former occasions. As his bowels had not yet been moved, I ordered an infusion of senna and manna with ginger, which acted within an hour. The pain was palliated by morphia for sixteen hours; when it ceased as suddenly as it had commenced. Directions were given to wash the dejections through a fine sieve or coarse cloth, with the view of finding the gall-stone. The next morning the nurse showed me at least a tablespoonful of *pieces of egg shell* that she had collected from two evacuations. Some were as large as a three cent piece, angular, with sharp corners; others smaller, of irregular shape, and the smallest pieces were

as fine as sand. The patient was in the habit of eating boiled eggs every morning, and was probably not very careful in removing the shells. The nurse at this point abandoned the search, and the stone was not found.

Now, what agency these angular pieces of egg-shell had in converting his chronic gastritis into a more acute form I am unable to say; but, be the cause what it may, the epigastric pain and tenderness, the urgent insatiable thirst, the nausea and vomiting, the greenish-yellow color, mucous character and bitter taste of the vomited matters, and the evident shock under which the patient labored, all pointed clearly and unmistakably to gastric inflammation, bordering certainly on the acute form of the disease.

The pain in the side and the vomiting disappeared gradually. The pulmonary inflammation was very limited in extent, no dullness being perceptible at any time; the cough was trifling, and he only expectorated a few rust-colored sputa.

On the third day the headache, which had been constant but not severe, became intolerable. Lights and sound annoyed him, and his conjunctive were injected. Moderate pressure over occipito-atloid articulation caused shooting pains to radiate all through the head. Ordered occiput shaved, and applied a blister extending well down over nucha. This gave prompt relief. Had already noticed some change in color of patient's skin, and the following day found him deeply jaundiced, and very weak. Pulse only 60, being kept down by the sedative action of the reabsorbed bile; I attributed the jaundice to the irritation and thickening of the ducts, caused by the passage of the gall-stone. From this time the bowels moved spontaneously from three to four times in the twenty-four hours. The evacuations were thin, clay-colored and very offensive, from the absence of bile. The patient was now attacked by that relentless demon, hiccough—threatening to wear out the little strength he still retained. Already exhausted by severe suffering, with sleepless nights and restless days; now racked and annoyed by this ever recurring spasm, my poor patient seemed but a short step from the grave. Every night it was thought would be his last; still, morning found him alive. For four long days and nights the hiccough held its sway, defying all remedies that I dared use. At the end of this time the acute gastric symptoms had so far

subsided that I ventured to give a remedy that I had read of in *THE REPORTER*—mustard. A teaspoonful of yellow mustard was mixed in a tumblerful of warm water, strained, and administered. It had hardly been swallowed before it was ejected, and was followed by the severest retching I have ever seen. Some greenish masses of tenacious mucus, very bitter, were ejected. The hiccough was gone! In one hour, however, it returned, continued three hours, then left him, and has not since been heard from. If occasion ever offers I shall try mustard again.

The patient now began slowly to improve. The tongue began to clean; the evacuations grew darker; the appetite improved; the jaundiced color of the skin gave place to the more roseate tints of health; and on the thirteenth day of his illness he was sitting in a rocking chair, feeling "comfortable." On the eighteenth day he was able to walk out.

Concerning the treatment, it may be stated that the remedies employed were few and simple. All depressing agents were carefully avoided. Only the blandest and mildest remedies were used at first. After the more acute gastric symptoms had somewhat subsided, brandy was added to his milk, and he was ordered beef tea, farina, etc. From this time he took quinine sulph., gr. ij. ter die, and subsequently tinct. gent. comp., with minute doses of podophyllin.

In looking back over the course and termination of this case, the feeble condition of the patient at the start, and the many complications that arose one after another (at one time I began to think he was going to run through the whole nosology), we are forcibly impressed with the great restorative power of nature, and the wisdom of abstaining from the use of powerful, depressing drugs where the vital powers are feeble, and life is threatened by asthenia. Had this patient been dosed with calomel at first, and during the time he was jaundiced, as many a one would have been tempted to do, instead of walking the earth and enjoying the bright light and pure air of Heaven, he would, to-day, have been food for the worms.

#### TOPOGRAPHICAL NOTES OF EAST TENNESSEE.

By F. K. BAILEY, M. D.,  
Of Knoxville.

So extensive is the territory embraced within the limits of our common country, that a great

diversity of climate is found to exist. Between the Canadas and the Gulf of Mexico, and the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, are found great extremes of heat and cold, aridity and humidity, as well as healthfulness and insalubrity.

The section known as East Tennessee is that part of the State which lies east of the Cumberland mountains, and borders on southwest Virginia and North Carolina. The northern limit is near the 37th parallel of latitude, and the south on the 35th. The geological formation is a little peculiar, the surface composed of ranges of hills and ridges running parallel with the Cumberland on the west or rather north-west, and the Unaka on the southeast.

These ridges and hills seem to be corrugations of surface produced by a folding upon itself of all the space between the greater ranges, and thrown up simultaneously with them.

It is well watered, not only by the Holston and French Broad rivers and their tributaries, but also by innumerable springs which gush out from the hillsides and give rise to little streams that water every farm.

The valleys are narrow, and consequently no marshes are found. In the upper and higher portions, the streams abound in brook trout. The mean elevation is more than one thousand feet above the level of the sea. The latitude, taken in connection with its altitude, indicate that the climate is equable.

From the meteorological record kept at the East Tennessee University, located at Knoxville, for January, 1868, we have the following facts: Mean temperature for said month, at 7 A.M.,  $32^{\circ} 45'$ ; at 2 P.M.,  $37^{\circ} 56'$ ; at 9 P.M.,  $35^{\circ} 12'$ . Mean temperature for the month,  $35^{\circ} 05'$ . Coldest day, January 30th, mean temperature,  $20^{\circ} 16'$ . Warmest day, January 7th, mean temperature for 24 hours,  $52^{\circ} 06'$ . The extremes of temperature for the whole of 1868, were  $14^{\circ}$  and  $92^{\circ}$ . Mean for whole year, about  $60^{\circ}$ . It is rare for the mercury to sink below  $10^{\circ}$ , or to rise above  $95^{\circ}$ . From  $30^{\circ}$  to  $35^{\circ}$  may be assumed as the mean of winter, and from  $65^{\circ}$  to  $70^{\circ}$ , the mean of summer. During the month of January, 1869, there were fifteen days fit for plowing. It will be seen then that East Tennessee occupies a mean between the extremes, which tends greatly to comfort and happiness.

According to reports in the census for 1850 and 1860, it will be seen that our percentage

of mortality was lower than that of any other section east of the Rocky Mountains.

From personal observation during a period of nearly four years, I can assert that this is emphatically a healthy region.

Malarious influences are unknown, except along the banks of the largest rivers. The diseases are simple in character, and sthenic in type. During the winter and spring months, pneumonia and rheumatism are somewhat prevalent.

Remittent fevers are most common, but occasionally they will assume a simple continued type. Typhoid fevers are rarely seen.

Bowel complaints in summer are not prevalent. Cholera infantum is comparatively rare.

Diseases of the lungs prevail a good deal among the colored population, and although tuberculosis is often met with, still most of the pulmonary diseases in the colored are rapid in their progress, and commonly known as quick consumption. Some of the old resident physicians characterize it as "nigger consumption."

In 1868 I knew three sisters, all mulattoes, to die within six months. Since January last, in another family, first an old woman died, next a granddaughter, and thirdly, a few days ago, a daughter and mother of the second. These were all unmixed African. In all the six cases cited there was rapid disintegration of lung tissue, and mostly supervening upon pleuritis. By reason of the equable climate as well as salubrity of this region, it is beginning to attract attention as a health resort. In cases of miasmatic disease acquired in the Mississippi valley, no region can afford better promise of recovery. A few months residence in this mountain air will accomplish more than any antiperiodic medicines.

Chronic disease of the abdominal viscera will soon yield to its influence, unless structural lesion has commenced.

In no form of diseased action is improvement more obvious than in asthma. Although a few cases are seen among the native population, still I have not known of an instance where a person laboring under this distressing disease was not benefited by a residence here. I will cite a few marked cases: 1. A lady of over sixty came here in 1868, from Southern Ohio, who had been a sufferer for many years. An improvement was soon felt, and at present she is troubled scarcely at all. 2. A young married lady, from the Western

Reserve, Ohio, came here in 1866, who had suffered from childhood with a very severe form of asthma. After about two years the disease began to yield, and for the last thirty months she has had but few attacks. At two different periods she visited Ohio, but was attacked almost immediately after arriving at her old home. For the last six months she has had no symptoms. 3. A gentleman came here during the year 1870, from Maine, who was so enfeebled from the effects of asthma that he was almost breathless after climbing a flight of stairs. Now, he is not only free from the disease, but is robust enough to engage in the sale of agricultural implements without any inconvenience. There are numerous persons here from different States north of the Ohio river who formerly labored under some threatening of pulmonary disease, and in most instances a marked change for the better is obvious.

Many who are in good health come here to spend the winter, and avoid the cold of a northern latitude, and become satisfied with the climate. There are very many persons who, having arrived at middle age, begin to feel that the long winters of New England are telling upon their health.

And, while the winters here are mild, the summers are no warmer than in the Middle or Western States. Although at mid-day the sun's rays fall much more vertically than at the North, still the nights are cooler than in Illinois. After 10 o'clock there is no trouble about sleeping on account of the heat. A single fact bearing upon natural history may answer many a query in the minds of some of our northern people: This is that no mosquitoes are found here, except in the lowest places along rivers.

Mineral springs are numerous among the mountains, which have acquired a local reputation for the cure of many chronic diseases. The waters contain iron, sulphur, and numerous saline substances.

In conclusion, I will remark that probably no region of country east of the Rocky Mountains, can surpass in salubrity of climate, and the beauty and variety of natural scenery, that portion embraced in Northern Georgia, East Tennessee, S. W. Virginia, and Western North Carolina. The subject of change of climate as a curative measure in disease has not received the attention of American physicians, that it has in England. Americans

generally, either by choice or compulsion, will remain where their business interests are, but the subject of climatic causes in the production and cure of disease begins to attract attention in our country. Until very recently the change of residence has been upon nearly the same parallel of latitude. The people of New England and the Middle States, in their migrations merely went West on the same line. They changed a hilly region for one of prairie, or level wood land. So far as the mean temperature was concerned, but little difference was found.

In regard to healthfulness, there was no improvement. In fact, the change was for the worse. Individuals and families went from a healthy mountain home to one of pestilential miasm. What they gained in fertility of soil they lost in physical suffering every Autumn, with no amelioration in regard to the degree of cold in winter. From a combination of causes which all are familiar with, the way now is open for a turning of the tide southward. Our New England friends can find among the mountains of this region of country a home nearly resembling that of their birth, and avoid the severity of a northern winter.

Again, the climate of the region mentioned above in this communication nearly resembles that of many portions of Southern Europe. The people of Switzerland and South Germany can find an atmosphere and soil similar to that of their own country. According to my own personal observation, no nationality suffer more from diseases peculiar to the great Mississippi valley than the Germans. Still, when our Teutonic brethren arrive at our coast, they at once seek the Great West as the only region ready to receive them. If that people can be directed southward, they will find a country at once healthful, and adapted both to their physical condition and natural tastes and preferences.

May, 1871.

## MEDICAL SOCIETIES.

### AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The Twenty-Second Annual Convention of the American Medical Association was commenced at Pacific Hall, in San Francisco, on the 2d instant. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Stout, of San Francisco, Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, who introduced the President, Dr. Alfred Stillé, of Pennsylvania.

June 3, 1871.]

## Medical Societies.

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The proceedings of the Association were opened with a prayer by Rt. Rev. Bishop Kip.

Dr. Stout then at some length welcomed the visitors from other States to California.

After the transaction of some routine business, Dr. Stillé delivered the Annual Address, of which the following is a brief synopsis :

After referring to the first organization of the Association in the City of New York, just a quarter of a century ago, and to the attempt then made by certain selfish and wicked persons to strangle it at its birth, the speaker remarked that when these events took place California had but recently been brought within the boundaries of the United States, and, almost unknown to those who dwelt beyond her borders, seemed destined to perpetual isolation. The contrast between her then rude state and her present wealth and culture was cited as justifying the anticipation that her future progress would be equally rapid, and that her sons would excel their eastern brethren in scientific investigation, as her giant vegetation exceeds that of other soils. The advance of medical knowledge beyond the superstition of former days, and the ingratitude of the public toward our profession, were touched upon, as well as the difficulties encountered by the Association in its efforts to hasten the progress of popular and professional enlightenment, and more particularly in its hitherto fruitless endeavors to elevate the standard of medical education. It has been wisely said that "all real reforms in the world must rest upon a sober recognition of the facts of life." Blindness to such facts, in the present instance, must be held accountable for the failure of all the efforts that have hitherto been made for medical reform. One of the facts to which we are blind, is, that as a nation we are still immature, and composed of elements so mobile and fleeting that the population of a place to-day is quite different from what it was a score of years ago, and from what it will be in another decade or two. Hence the idea of fine property, of attachment to localities, of permanent interests and relations, and especially of transmission from generation to generation of definite systems or principles, is as rare in the United States as it is usual in the old world, where the modifying influences of centuries have been required to mould society into its present form.

The minute, extensive and prolonged studies which are made necessary for the exercise of a profession in Europe, are just as natural to the European state of society as the brief apprenticeship and superficial attainments which we require are in harmony with the rapid development and the instability of our social sphere. Even in our oldest cities, where a certain degree of permanence exists in the constitution of society, the establishment of an University upon the European mould would be simply im-

possible. The very first condition of its success would be wanting, for no candidate for admission to its classes could be found sufficiently skilled in science and letters to enter at once the higher departments of culture in these branches of knowledge. Such an institution abruptly transplanted into our midst would be oddly out of place. We all know how beneficently and peacefully democratic political principles have ruled this country, not only since the revolution, but virtually from the very planting of the colonies; and we know equally well that the abortive attempts of enthusiasts to build up European Republics upon and with the ruins of empires, form the saddest and most instructive chapters of political history. It has been said of nationalities, and it is just as true of scientific professions, that they cannot be made to order—"they are not in the nature of manufactured articles at all." They must grow. The idea of development in education is just as natural and as necessary as it is in the growth of an organic being. Systems of education, no more than men, spring full-grown into existence. He showed that nevertheless great progress had been made in medical education, in illustration, models, etc., in didactic lectures, and in the superiority of the clinical lectures of the present day; and he believed that still greater progress would be made. He then asked: Why, then, is it that although the profession and schools are agreed in the essential principles involved in the problem of medical education, so little should be practically done to solve it? And his answer was, first, the number of medical schools which rendered unanimity almost impossible. Next, the dependence of the professors upon their class-fees, which, of course, almost compelled them to adopt measures which would attract students to them; next, the reluctance of faculties of colleges to try any experiments which might, if unsuccessful, permanently injure the colleges with which they were connected; and, in illustration, he cited the case of a college which had endeavored to insist on a longer term of study, but which was at length compelled by competition to at last relinquish the idea. He hoped, however, for the correction of this evil by natural laws in process of time. The speaker then devoted some time to discussing empiricism and science in the treatment of disease; lamenting the prevalence of quackery, and the lack of protection and encouragement for conscientious, scientific physicians.

Another disease has become epidemic. "The woman question," in relation to medicine, and is only one of the forms in which the *pestis muliebris* vexes the world. In other shapes it attacks the bar, wriggles into the jury box, and clearly means to mount upon the bench; it strives thus far in vain, to serve at the altar and thunder from the pulpit; it

raves at political meetings, harangues in the lecture room, infects the masses with its poison, and even pierces the triple brass that surrounds the politician's heart.

To the vulgar apprehension nothing seems more natural than that women should be physicians, for is not nursing the chief agent in the cure of disease, and who is so fit to nurse as women? The logic is worthy of its subject, and is of the sort in which Eve's daughters excel.

That it is in the province of women, or, if the popular but deceptive phrase be preferred, that nature destined woman to be nurses of the sick, is as certain as that they are intended or fitted to be mothers. That they were also intended to be teachers of the young, is not less certain than either. Nor are any of these propositions more self-evident than that if the functions of parturition were always as naturally and easily performed by the civilized as by the savage female, male obstetricians might be dispensed with, and students in our medical schools would have the burden of their studies materially lightened.

But the claim of the midwife to supersede the obstetrician, and bring back the "good old times" when obstetrical science was unknown, rests upon the very narrow foundation of an *if*. Neither gestation nor parturition is so uniformly normal that society can afford to risk the lives of its mothers and infants by abandoning them to the abstract and negative mercies of an *if*.

For a long time upon the continent of Europe midwives have received a special medical education, and the names of Bolvin, La Chapelle, and others among them, testify to the eminence they have gained in this department of medicine. Yet even in France and Germany the law requires that no female shall perform a serious obstetrical operation without the advice and assistance of a physician. In other words, the law recognizes the efficiency of the female practitioner only so long as no conditions arise which involve grave responsibility, and it therefore implies her incompetency to deal with such conditions.

Upon the ground, therefore, of these precedents alone, it may, and, indeed, must be admitted that women who pursue the same studies, and are subjected to the same tests of knowledge as are required of men, have the same legal right as men to practice physic.

The transposition of functions in the moral or in the social world produces an unnatural being who is a satire upon its proper sex, contemptible as man, and as woman odious. The effeminate male and the viraginous female are alike monsters in the social sphere. Certain women seek to rival men in manly sports and occupations, and the "strong minded" ape them assiduously in all things. In doing so

they command a sort of admiration such as all monstrous productions inspire, especially when they tend toward a higher type than their own. But a man with feminine traits of character, or with the frame and carriage of a female, is despised both by the sex he ostensibly belongs to and that of which he is at once a caricature and a libel. In every department of active life man excels woman—excels her even in things for which she is esteemed most fit.

In the arts of design, in painting and sculpture, no woman (albeit the artist's career has always been open to her) has ever risen far above mediocrity, while men have excelled women in not a few employments which are regarded as especially feminine. In the art of cooking, for example, no woman ever occupied the first rank, and in more than one capital of Europe male hair-dressers and dressmakers set the fashions in which court ladies and city dames contend for the palm of beauty.

If the views are just which have now been very imperfectly stated, it follows that the right of women to study and practice medicine, and their claims to professional courtesy and assistance should be recognized; but it does not follow that their claim to attend the medical lectures of the schools and hospitals should also be admitted. These institutions have hitherto been devoted to the instruction of males alone, and if the students in them complain that their instruction is curtailed and their privileges abridged, and their rights infringed by the presence of women; and if the teachers find their liberty of speech and illustration restrained, their presence of mind disturbed, and their sense of decency shocked by female spectators, it needs no argument to prove that the interests of those who constitute nine-tenths of every medical class should be first of all considered, even if it led to total exclusion of the remaining tenth.

The concluding portion of the address was devoted to a much needed warning against the too free administration of alcoholic stimulants.

The reports of committees were as follows:

On Cultivation of the Cinchona Tree—Dr. Lem. J. Dear, Pa., Chairman. Committee reported progress, and was continued.

On Inebriate Asylums—Dr. C. H. Nichols, D. C., Chairman. No report.

On Institutions for Inebriates—Dr. Joseph Parish, Pa., Chairman. No report.

On the Structure of the White Blood Corpuscles—Dr. J. G. Richardson, Pa., Chairman. Committee continued.

On Vaccination—Dr. Henry A. Martin, Mass., Chairman. Continued.

On the Comparative Merits of Syme's and Pirogoff's Operations—Dr. Geo. A. Otis, U. S. A., Chairman. No report.

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On Lithotripsy—Dr. E. M. Moore, N. Y., Chairman. No report.

On Veterinary Medicine—Dr. S. D. Gross, Pa., Chairman. No report.

On Protest of Naval Surgeons, etc.—Dr. W. S. W. Ruschenberger, U. S. N., Chairman. Dr. Pinkney, against whose views the protest was directed, was, after considerable discussion, allowed to read his answer. A motion was made to refer both protest and answer to the Committee on Publication, but they were finally, by a majority vote, laid on the table.

Committee on National Medical School—Dr. Francis Gurney Smith, Pa., Chairman. Report received and referred to Committee on Publication.

On American Medical Association Journal—Dr. James P. White, N. Y., Chairman. No report.

On Criminal Abortion—Dr. D. A. O'Donnell, Md., Chairman. Received and referred.

On Nomenclature of Disease—Dr. Francis Gurney Smith, Pa., Chairman. Granted further time.

On National System of Quarantine—Dr. J. C. Tucker, Cal., Chairman. Passed for the time; will be called for again.

On what, if any, Legislative means are expedient and advisable to prevent the spread of Contagious Diseases—Dr. M. H. Henry, N. Y., Chairman. Continued.

On Renewal of Prescriptions by Apothecaries without Authority. Dr. J. O'Sullivan, N. Y., Chairman. No report.

On American Medical Necrology—Dr. C. C. Cox, D. C., Chairman. Continued.

On Medical Education—Dr. Ely Geddings, S. C., Chairman. Report forwarded with a letter, in which Dr. Geddings says he "neither expects nor hopes for any good" from his report. The report was made the special order of business at 11 o'clock the next day.

The Medical Literature—Dr. P. G. Robinson, Missouri, Chairman. No report.

#### REPORTS ON CLIMATOLOGY.

Maine, Dr. J. C. Weston, no report; New Hampshire, Dr. P. A. Stackpole, no report; Massachusetts, Dr. H. I. Bowditch, no report; Rhode Island, Dr. C. W. Parsons, no report; Connecticut, Dr. J. C. Jackson, no report; New York, Dr. W. F. Thomas, reported progress; New Jersey, Dr. C. F. J. Lehlbach, no report; Pennsylvania, Dr. D. F. Condie, no report; Maryland, Dr. C. H. Ohr, no report; Georgia, Dr. Juriah Harris, no report; Missouri, Dr. F. E. Baumgarten, no report; Alabama, Dr. R. F. Michel, reported progress; Texas, Dr. S. M. Welch, no report; Indiana, Dr. J. F. Hibbard, no report; District of Columbia, Dr. T. Antisell, no report; Iowa, Dr. J. C. Hughes, no report; Michigan, Dr. G. P. Andrews, no report; Ohio, Dr. T. L. Neal, no report; Dr. F. W. Hatch,

California, report ready; referred to appropriate section; Tennessee, Dr. B. W. Avent, no report; West Virginia, Dr. E. Hildreth, reported progress; Minnesota, Dr. Charles N. Hewitt, report ready, and referred; Virginia, Dr. W. O. Owen, no report; Delaware, Dr. L. P. Bush, continued; Arkansas, Dr. G. W. Lawrence, reported progress; Mississippi, Dr. J. P. Moore, report ready; referred; Louisiana, Dr. S. M. Bemiss, no report; Wisconsin, Dr. J. K. Bartlett, continued; Kentucky, Dr. L. P. Yandell, Sr., continued; Oregon, Dr. E. R. Fisk, continued; North Carolina, Dr. W. H. McKee, no report.

#### SECOND DAY.

The Committee of Arrangements reported a list of duly accredited delegates to the number of nearly two hundred.

After some discussion concerning the admission of members by invitation from districts already represented in the Association, which question was finally settled in the negative, Dr. Yandell proceeded to read the report on Medical Education forwarded by Dr. Geddings.

Dr. Toner objected to the report on the ground that it was signed only by one member of the committee.

The Chair decided the point not well taken.

An appeal was taken, and the decision of the Chair sustained.

Dr. Yandell proceeded to read the report, which is a pamphlet of thirty-nine printed pages, but before he had concluded its reading, Dr. Gibbons moved that the further reading be dispensed with, and referred to the Committee on Publication, which motion, after a lengthy discussion, prevailed.

Dr. Gibbons, Sr., moved that the vote be reconsidered whereby the Committee on Vaccination was continued for another year, and that its chairman, Dr. Henry Martin, be removed, for the reason that he had written a communication to a homeopathic journal in Massachusetts, attaching to it his official signature.

Dr. Storer suggested that the matter be referred to the Committee on Ethics.

Dr. Dawson said that the article was an insult to every member of the Association, and moved that Dr. Martin be expelled as a member of the Association.

Dr. Bibb offered an amendment that a committee of three be appointed to prefer charges against the gentleman.

It was finally resolved to refer the matter to the Committee on Ethics, which was then appointed by the Chair, consisting of Drs. Gibbons, Davis, Smith, Toner and Parsons.

On motion of Dr. Stout it was resolved to refer all questions implying accusations to the Committee on Ethics without discussion.

Dr. Logan presented a report from the Committee on Prize Essays, who state that they had received five essays, and that they award the first prize to E. R. Taylor, of Sacramento city, for his essay on the "Chemical Constitution of the Bile," bearing the motto, "Divide et impera."

The second prize was awarded to B. M. Howard, of New York (winner of the first prize last year), for his essay on "The direct method of artificial respiration for the treatment of persons apparently dead from suffocation by drowning, or from other causes." Motto, "Festina lente."

The report was adopted, and the Committee requested to hold all essays at the disposition of the authors.

Dr. Davis then presented a lengthy report from the Committee on Legislation and Correspondence for action, and submitted the following resolutions, which were adopted :

*Resolved*, That each State and local Medical Society be requested to provide, as a permanent part of its organization, a Board of Censors for determining the educational qualifications of such young men as propose to commence the study of medicine, and that no member of such societies be permitted to receive a student into his office until such student presents a certificate of proper preliminary education from the Committee appointed for that purpose, or a degree from some literary college of known good standing.

*Resolved*, That a more complete organization of the profession in each State is greatly needed for the purpose of affording a more efficient basis, both for educational and scientific purposes.

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed for the purpose of continuing the correspondence with the State Medical Societies, and of asking their earnest attention to the foregoing resolutions, in addition to those submitted for their action in 1869.

Dr. Moore, of St. Louis, offered a resolution that all medical colleges charge \$100 as the fee for a course of lectures, and that a forfeiture of this rule shall subject such college to no representation in the Convention. After a protracted discussion the resolution was voted down, on the ground that quality of education does not depend on price.

#### THIRD DAY.

In the absence of Dr. Stillé, the chair was taken by Dr. Henry Gibbons, Sr., of San Francisco.

The reports of the Committee on Publication and of the Treasurer were received, the latter announcing a balance on hand of \$704.32, and reiterating the annual appeal that the Association exercise economy in referring matter not of real value to the Committee on Publication.

The Librarian's report shows no material addition to the 339 volumes which formed the stock of the library last year, except in the accumulation of medical periodicals.

A report was received from Dr. J. L. Atlee, delegate to the Association of Medical Superintendents of Institutions for the Insane, and an address from

Dr. Curwen, the representative of that Association.

Dr. Storer said that at a previous meeting the question of having the Association devoted specially to the treatment of the insane meet in closer relations with the American Medical Association was discussed. And the sense of the meeting always favored the "close relations." He would then offer the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That the Association of Superintendents of Institutions for the Treatment of the Insane and the American Medical Association should be more closely united, and that the meetings of the two associations should be held at about the same time and at the same place. Adopted.

The report of Dr. Pinckney, U. S. N., on Naval Medical Affairs, submitted last year, was presented and referred to the Committee on Publication, as was also a report by Dr. Barber, of Yreka, on fracture of the neck of the femur in a child seven years old.

The Chairman of the Section on Materia Medica and Chemistry, Dr. Yandell, reported having received a valuable paper from Dr. Gibbons, of Alameda, entitled, *The Botany of the Pacific Coast*. The paper was accompanied by one hundred and eighty specimens of indigenous plants, etc., and would certainly be considered a valuable contribution to the science of medicine.

The committee moved that the paper be referred to the Committee on Publication.

Dr. Gibbons arose and requested that the recommendation of the committee be withdrawn. The paper was not complete—not as perfect as he could make it by additional work.

On motion, a vote of thanks was passed, and the paper returned to its author for completion.

Dr. H. R. Storer, of Massachusetts, presented a verbal report of his visit to the Canadian Medical Association, highly eulogistic of the culture and ability of our Northern brethren.

The Committee on Nominations presented the following list of officers for the ensuing year :

President, Dr. D. W. Yandell, of Kentucky; First Vice-President, Thos. M. Logan, of California; Second Vice-President, C. L. Ives, of Alabama; Third Vice-President, R. M. Michell, of Alabama; Fourth Vice-President, J. K. Bartlett, of Wisconsin Assistant Secretary, D. Murray Cheston; Librarian, F. A. Ashford, Philadelphia; Treasurer, C. Weston, Philadelphia. Next place of meeting, Philadelphia.

On motion of Dr. Davis the report was accepted, and the officers unanimously accepted.

Under the head of unfinished business an amendment to the Constitution, offered at the last meeting of the Association by Dr. Hartshorne, of Philadelphia, was taken up for consideration.

The proposed amendment is embodied in the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That the Constitution shall be so con-

strued as not to exclude delegates from Female Colleges.

Dr. Harding, Indiana.—I move the adoption of that resolution, and would like to make a few remarks pertinent to the question which is termed vexatious. It has been before this Association repeatedly, year after year, and the time has now arrived when it should be definitely settled. I can see no good reason why females should not be allowed to practice as physicians—can see no good reason why, when practicing physicians, they should not be admitted to this Association as delegates—when qualified. They have arrived at that point when their professional ability and zeal cannot be ignored, even by those who claim to have the least respect for them. You all realize the necessity for taking action in this matter, and that speedily; for your professional duties have brought you more or less in contact with female physicians. These women have combated against all opposition; have overcome nearly every obstacle thrown in their path, and now simply ask a recognition from us—a mere recognition of them as physicians and not interlopers. Gentlemen, you cannot give them the cold shoulder; such a course would be entirely inconsistent with the profession in the estimation of intelligent, right-minded people. You cannot shift the responsibility of the occasion by placing the question in a false position, even were any of you so disposed, but must consider it impartially. With me it is not simply—"Shall we admit the women as delegates," but "Is it not for the interest of the profession to aid them in every possible manner?" Suppose that we refuse their applications, what may be the result? Instead of harmony in the profession we shall have strife, and the legitimate practice of medicine will be endangered. If we refuse the women admission, we shall drive them into homeopathy, etc. Let the women come in; open the Colleges to them; dash down the barriers, and all will be well. [Applause.]

Dr. Davis, Illinois—I hope that the question will not be disposed of until the Association understand its full meaning. What does the proposed amendment mean? Gentlemen, it means that the delegates from female colleges—whether male or female—are eligible to become members of this Association. Thus far, they have sent a male representative, but if we adopt this proposed amendment the door will then be thrown open to females, and these females will undoubtedly come in. But pause, and think for a moment. Has the time come when you are willing to throw aside all distinctions as to sex? Will that time ever come? Is there no difference between the sexes? And are we to forget all distinction, because of popular clamor? I make no comparisons as to the merits of the relative sexes for the medical profession; but I say, gentle-

men, "Let the female remain in her sphere, and I will remain in mine." [Applause.] I will say to her, "You no more can do the work designed for me than I can do the work designed for you." Woman has her sphere; man has his sphere, and the assumption that woman rises when she unsexes herself I claim to be erroneous. But if we are to admit of the change; if woman is to step into every profession, then she will take the shape, the plan, and the rough work of man—who will admit such work to be within her sphere? The Creator has given the sexes distinctive features, and intended us for different spheres. This fact is unmistakable. Woman, pure woman, may be a power in the land—in her sphere. Then let her not mistake her sacred mission as wife and mother, as the light of the household. Let us not yield to the cry of "Woman's rights, as now construed. I have had women at the clinical basin, stripped a patient before them, made examinations and remarks, conducted myself with the same freedom which characterizes the ordinary clinic, covering about the case, and explaining all its important points. But, gentlemen, after all my experience, I am more firmly convinced than ever that it would be better for these women if they remained in their sphere. [Applause.]

Dr. Donahue, of Ohio—I move that the resolution be tabled.

The motion was withdrawn.

Dr. King, of Pennsylvania, made an able, elaborate address in behalf of the amendment. Not being a speaker, he did not propose to say much, but he wanted the question settled. In his own local society the question had been defeated and defeated year after year, and it was getting troublesome. It was beneath the dignity of an association of learned and scientific men to war with women. (Hisses.) If they must exercise their bellicose propensities, they should enlist under General Crook, to fight the Apaches. Gentlemen had talked about the sphere of woman. Would these gentlemen be a little more explicit in their definition of the meaning of the word sphere? Perhaps they would take India for their standard—where the women were treated as brute animals—

"Doomed by the law of man to toil,  
Yoked to the plow and fettered to the soil"

Let them assist in lifting up the women, if they considered her degraded. Some gifted minds had handsomely termed her "the ministering angel." That sounded well—smacked of euphony—but according to their definition, it was not practical enough. Could she not be a ministering angel, and also a physician? Oh, no; she lacks the intellectual capacity for such a purpose. She is weak and silly, and cannot grasp the science of medicine. "We have the intellect; we can grasp," said the

speaker. Why, he had examined the records of the Female College of Philadelphia, and knew what he was talking about; knew that the women had made rapid strides in the profession, and that many of them were skillful practitioners. If it was consistent with the code of ethics, and he believed such to be the case, the women should certainly be admitted to the Association. As the case now stood, a member of the medical association could not recognize a female as a member of the profession; could not consult with her. If he was summoned and found a woman had charge of a case—what could he do? According to the law of the Association he must say to her, "Walk out of this house, and let me take exclusive charge of this case." The speaker would rather remove his right arm than perform so mean an act. As the case now stands, he could not consult with the President of the Association, the eminent Dr. Stillé, and this because the doctor was consulting physician in the Philadelphia Female Medical College. Under the present *régime*, if the Association consulted with its President, it stultified itself. [Applause and hisses.]

Dr. Henry Gibbons made a brief speech upon the question. He favored the amendment; believed that women had a perfect right to practice medicine, but did not think mixed colleges healthy. He believed that his residence upon the verge of the continent, away from the turmoil and strife over the woman question in the east, qualified him to consider the matter dispassionately. He was astonished at the course of his old friend Dr. Davis, and the *ad captandum* argument he presented. The question being one of vital importance demanded serious consideration at the hands of the members.

Dr. Johnson, of Missouri, opposed the amendment. He contended that the women should organize their own associations, and manage their own affairs. His remarks were listened to with attention, and warmly applauded.

Dr. Atlee, of Philadelphia, favored the amendment, making an able speech in its behalf.

A. L. McArthur, of Illinois, favored the education of women for physicians, but was opposed to the amendment. The idea of the two sexes operating at the same dissecting table was revolting. [Applause] The speaker also opposed the mixture of the sexes in colleges.

Dr. Thomas, of Pennsylvania, the delegate from the Woman's Medical College, stated that the ladies whom he represented had no desire that the sexes should be educated in common. No male students were admitted to their college or to their hospital. Their object in applying for recognition from the Association was simply to avert the unfairness and illiberality with which they have been treated by medical societies. In some places respectable members of the profession dare not consult with women.

In the speaker's own city the County Medical Society established this rule, and it was afterward adopted by the State Society, visiting with expulsion any member who should even consult with a man who met women in consultation or taught them medicine. Members of the Pennsylvania Society dare not consult with Dr. Stillé, the President of the Association. In some other States the situation is nearly the same. Dr. Thomas's constituents were called to attend difficult cases, and desired, like every practitioner, to have consultation; but they were not only refused consultation but injured in the estimation of their patients by having it said that their diplomas were not recognized by the Association. He would like their graduates of the past year to be put through the same examination as the graduates of other colleges, to decide whether or not they were fitted for equal rights in the profession with men. The speaker then cited the names of distinguished physicians in New York and Boston who are in daily association with women as consultants or teachers.

Dr. Moore, of Massachusetts, had no objection to women in the abstract, but did object to admitting them into the Association. They might have an association of their own if they wanted to; and he therefore moved that the whole subject be indefinitely postponed.

And on vote being taken it was so ordered.

#### FOURTH DAY.

The following resolutions were offered by Dr. T. M. Logan, and adopted:

WHEREAS, The science of hygiene and its corollary preventive, or State medicine, are subjects eminently congenial with the purposes of this Association, inasmuch as they have for their objects the preservation of human life, and the removal of those causes of disease and death which it is in the power of legislation to ameliorate, if not eradicate; and whereas the great fundamental idea that was made the prominent element for medical association, and that led eventually to our national organization, was a higher standard of medical education; and whereas the present system adopted by our colleges provides more and more satisfactorily for the thorough qualification of the graduate, as regards the principles and practice of his art, but does not provide at all adequately for the special study and cultivation of questions of State medicine; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That this Association recommends a distinct and separate chair of hygiene, independent of physiology, to be established in all our medical schools, and constituted a requisite curriculum preliminary to that diploma which confers one of the highest honors of the profession.

*Resolved*, That the inauguration of the enlarged philanthropic policy of State medicine in Massachusetts and California is worthy of our special approbation, and commends itself to other States for imitation; and, therefore, the President of this Association is hereby authorized to nominate at this session, a Committee, consisting of one physician from each State in the Union, to memorialize the Legislatures of all the other States to follow the example

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of one of the oldest, most enlightened and conservative, as well as one of the youngest, most progressive and enterprising members of our glorious confederacy, who have led off in the right way, and at the right time, for the prevention of disease and the correction of "those multitudinous agencies, whether physical, whether moral, whether born of earth, of air, or of society, which are either openly or insidiously degenerating the human race."

*Resolved*, That this Association further recommends that initiative steps be taken, as soon as six States shall engraft State Medicine upon their statute books, for the formation of a "National Health Council," whose objects shall be the prosecution of the comparative study of international hygienic statistics, and the diffusion and utilizing of sanitary knowledge; and that said Council shall be aided and assisted by this Association in using whatever influence may legitimately lay in their power, with foreign States, as well as with the medical profession and the people generally, in securing co-operation in the ends and objects of public hygiene.

*Resolved*, That said National Health Council, although thus organized as a branch *per se*, shall be auxiliary to this Association, and shall constitute a special section on hygiene, to which all questions germane to this department of medicine shall be referred. "Only," to use the language of the great Virchow, "by thus working harmoniously together, by thus mutually enlightening each other, will the State gain an organ to which may be safely entrusted the solution of the great question of our time, viz.: bodily and mental health, and development of future generations.

After the adoption of a list of officers of sections and committees for the ensuing year, Dr. O'Donnell, of Maryland, presented resolutions condemnatory of abortionists, which were adopted.

Surgeon J. M. Browner, U. S. N., returned thanks on behalf of the Naval Medical Staff for the aid extended to them in the recent contest with the Line.

Dr. McArthur moved that Dr. Toner be requested to furnish to the Association a list prepared by him comprising the names of 60,000 American practitioners.

Dr. Atlee offered the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the American Medical Association acknowledges the right of its members to meet in consultation the graduates and teachers of Women's Medical Colleges, provided the Code of Ethics of the Association is observed.

Dr. Storer protested against a revival of the discussion on this topic.

Dr. Johnson favored the resolution, which was intended merely to enable the physicians of Pennsylvania to consult with women, and with the President of the Association.

Dr. McArthur said that the Code of Ethics of the Association did not prohibit consultations with women, and that the proposed resolution was therefore a work of supererogation.

Dr. Gibbons insisted that there was much occasion for action when the President of the Association stands in the preposterous attitude of a man taboo-

ed from consulting with members of the State Society.

Dr. Storer moved to lay the resolution on the table. Lost.

Dr. Davis thought it was a question only of tweedledum and tweedledee.

Dr. Cole moved an adjournment until eight o'clock, p. m., which was carried.

#### EVENING SESSION.

Dr. Storer opened the debate by stating that he had for several years been associated with female physicians, and become convinced that the best portion of the community have less confidence in female than in male practitioners. Granting that some women may have ambition and ability to attain the same professional education as men, their condition varied from month to month, and the average woman was inferior to the average man in the matter of judgment.

Dr. Atlee said that before the obnoxious regulations were passed in Pennsylvania, he had met with female physicians, and had therein felt more elevated, perhaps, than with the majority of male physicians with whom he had associated. If women were inferior to men, we had nothing to fear. It sometimes looked to him as if some men were afraid women would take away their practice. Humanity demanded that we should aid a female as well as a male physician who has a difficult case, and asks a consultation.

Dr. Jones, of Ohio, followed in a similar strain, as did also Dr. Gibbons, Sr., whose remarks were met with hisses, and other manifestations of the superior intelligence and good breeding of male practitioners.

Dr. Stillé wished to correct some errors which had been advanced in the discussion. He said: A statement that has been made through inadvertence is, that the Society—by which is meant, I presume, the Medical Society—the Societies of Philadelphia have enacted a law forbidding their members to consult with female practitioners of medicine. Now, that is not a correct statement. The County Medical Society has passed resolutions of that sort. But there is another Society in Philadelphia, which has existed for more than a hundred years, and which is known to many of the members of this body as the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, the oldest society of the kind in the country, and which includes all that is eminent, all that is renowned, all that is useful in the medical profession, and excludes all that have not some decided professional claim to membership. Now, that body decided, when this question was brought up, differently from the County Medical Society. It turned it out of doors, and left everybody to do as seemed good in his conscience. So it should be understood that, in Philadelphia, it is only a particular society—the

County Medical Society—and not the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, that has adopted such an illiberal course. I have the honor to be one of the members of that College of Physicians, and one of the censors of that Society, an office which I have held, if I remember rightly (after having had the honor of being President for eight or nine years), certainly for seven years, I am familiar, therefore, with all that has been done upon this question in the County Medical Society, because it was likely to come before the Board of Revision to which I refer; and not a single member of that Society has dared to test the question before the Board of Censors. They have passed in the Society a resolution condemning the consulting with female practitioners; and there they have stopped. If I may speak for myself, I will say they have known that I have done so, and others whose names, if I were to mention them, would be familiar to the ears of all of you, have consulted with female practitioners. Some of those gentlemen, when they found they were acting in opposition to the rules of the County Society, withdrew from its fellowship, and others did not hesitate to consult with female practitioners and defied the Society to enforce its rule. I repeat that it is only the Philadelphia County Medical Society which has adopted such a rule, and it is a question upon which the Board of Censors has never been called upon to pronounce.

Dr. Atlee asked if the College of Physicians was represented in the State Medical Society, and being answered in the negative, said :

The County Society, and not the College of Phy-

sicians, then, is represented in the State Medical Society; as the College of Physicians consists of the more respectable members, and a greater number of them, than in the County Society, it should be represented in preference. I believe that it is a fact, And yet this County Society being represented, the State Medical Society puts a ban upon any physician who consults with a female practitioner; while the College of Physicians, the most respectable in the United States, as the President tells us, leaves that matter to the Code of Ethics. The County Medical Society, the inferior body, so read the Code of Ethics as to prohibit any man from consulting with them. It is under this state of facts that we call upon this body for relief. I am a member of both the County Society and the College of Physicians, and I feel that I am authorized to state that it is only by the action of the County Medical Society, an inferior organization, that we are placed in this predicament, from which we ask relief.

Dr. Wetherly advised non-interference, and moved the indefinite postponement of the resolution, which motion was carried.

Dr. Storer then moved that the Association express its dissatisfaction with the course of gentlemen who set at defiance the regulations of their local and State societies in such matters, which was also indefinitely postponed.

Votes of thanks were passed to the officers of the Association, to railway companies, individuals, and organizations, for courtesies extended, and after some remarks by Dr. Davis, concerning the pleasantness and good feeling existing throughout the session, the Association adjourned.

## EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

### PERISCOPE.

#### Styptic Wool.

The following is quoted from the *Lancet* by the *American Journal of Dental Science*:

Dr. EHRLE, of Isny, in the interest of his countrymen wounded in the present war, desires to make known a very simple preparation of wool that he has found very serviceable in arresting hemorrhage after operations or from wounds. To prepare it he boils the finest carded wool for half an hour or an hour in a solution containing four per cent. of soda, then thoroughly washes it out in cool spring water, wrings and dries it. The wool is thus effectually purified, and is now capable of imbibing fluids uniformly. It is then to be dipped two or three times in fluid chloride of iron diluted with one-third of

water, expressed and dried in a draught of air, but not in the sun or with high heat; finally it is carded out. Thus prepared, it is of a beautiful yellow color, and feels like ordinary dry cotton wool. As it is highly hygroscopic, it must be kept dry, and when required to be transported must be packed in caoutchouc or bladder. Charpie may be prepared in a similar manner, but on account of its coarse texture is not so effective as cotton wool, presenting a less surface for coagulation. When the wool is placed on a bleeding wound, it induces moderate contraction of the tissue, coagulation of the blood that has escaped, and subsequently coagulation of the blood that is contained within the injured vessels, and thus arrests the hemorrhage. The coagulating power of the chloride of iron is clearly exalted by the extension of its surface that is in this way affected. The application of the prepared wool is

not particularly painful, whilst, by sucking up the superfluous discharge and preventing its decomposition, it seems to operate favorably on the progress of the wound. The unpleasant secondary results that have led many practical surgeons to discard the use of the pechloride of iron do not occur with the wool when it is properly made and applied. In cases of wounds where the bleeding proceeds from large and deep seated vessels, it may be used as a compress, a bandage being applied over it, or the wound may be plugged with it. It may also be employed with advantage in cases of profuse suppuration, to imbibe the discharge and purify the surface. He recommends that a small portion should be given to every soldier on going into action.

#### The Treatment of Hæmoptysis.

We find the following in the *Practioner*: Dr. WATERS records a series of cases illustrating various forms and modes of treatment of hæmoptysis. He remarks that, considering the frequency of this symptom, it is only in a small proportion of cases that it proves fatal—the patient dying suddenly from the profusions of the hemorrhage and consequent suffocation, or sinking more or less rapidly from exhaustion. Whenever it is only slight during the progress of a case of phthisis, he is of opinion that no special treatment need be directed to it; should it be, however, at all severe, rest should be enjoined, and no risk run by which an inflammatory attack might be brought on. In regard to the various measures that are usually resorted to, he considers the best remedy to be used is gallic acid, as being the safest, the most rapid, and the most effectual. It should be given in full doses of not less than 10 grains every hour, or every two, three or four hours, according to the severity of the case. It is readily taken by patients; it rarely disagrees with the stomach, and is well borne by delicate persons. It rapidly finds its way into the urine and is excreted. Acetate of lead, especially when combined with opium, is often of great service. He usually gives it in the form of pill, in two or three grain doses, every two, three, or four hours, but it should not be too long continued on account of its constipating effects. Sulphuric acid is a good remedy in slight cases of hæmoptysis, and it may be combined with other substances, as quinine and iron, which are given for the general treatment of the disease. It should be given in doses of from 10 to 30 minimis. Dr. Waters' experience of the use of ergot of rye in pulmonary hemorrhage is not very favorable. In severe cases of hæmoptysis he always applies ice to the chest: it should be included in a bag, and not allowed to remain so long as to produce a chill. In regard to digitalis, as far as his experience goes, he is unable to recommend it as a trustworthy remedy in hæmoptysis. He occasion-

ally prescribes dry cupping, but never fails to give stypics internally at the same time. He gives a caution against the indiscriminate administration of purgatives. Turpentine he considers to be less valuable in hemorrhage from the lungs than in hemorrhage from the bowels. The room should be kept cool and well ventilated; the food should consist of iced beef-tea and milk, and small pieces of ice given the patient to suck. (*British Medical Journal*, March 11, 1871.)

In a note upon the above lecture in the following number of the same journal, Dr. GODDARD ROGERS, whilst agreeing for the most part in the estimate of the relative value of the various remedies therein mentioned by Dr. Waters, for the treatment of hæmoptysis, remarks that alumina exsiccatum and diluted acetic acid are worthy of mention, and that as long as 1858 he himself called attention to the very marked efficacy of the so-called tannate of alumina in spitting of blood. Iron-alum, a sulphate of peroxide of iron, and a sulphate of alumina or potash, is perhaps a still more powerful astringent. The dose should not exceed three grains to begin with. Ruspini's stypic also deserves a passing notice.

#### Detection of Blood Stains.

Iodine of potassium dissolves traces of blood, even from clothing which has been thoroughly washed, but haemin crystals cannot be obtained from the solution.

Gunning has discovered, in the acetate of zinc, a reagent that precipitates the slightest traces of the coloring matter of blood from solutions, even where the liquids are so dilute as to be colorless. Blood, washed from the hands in a pail of water, can readily be detected in this way. The flocculent precipitate, thrown down by the acetate of zinc, must be washed by decantation, and finally collected on a watch glass, and allowed to dry, when the microscope will readily reveal haemin crystals, if any blood be present. This test has been repeatedly tried, with entire success.

#### Artificial Production of Coniine.

It is said that Socrates terminated his life by drinking coniine, extracted from the poisonous hemlock, *Conium maculatum*. The oily liquid is highly poisonous, and closely resembles the nicotine obtained from tobacco. The artificial preparation of this body has more than ordinary interest, as it suggests the possibility of our being able to make other alkaloids, such as quinine, morphine, and the like; and if we can succeed in this, why not prepare the less complex compounds, sugar, starch, etc.? The coniine was prepared by Hugo Schiff, by heating alcohol and ammonia at 210°, together with butyraldehyd, precipitating with a platinum

salt, and distilling the product. The artificial alkaloid exhibits the same properties as the native. It is a violent poison, and in other respects is analogous to the extract from hemlock. As the first step in the synthesis of vegetable alkaloids, the discovery of Professor Schiff is one of the most important in modern chemistry.

#### Artificia India-Bubbr.

Prof. SONNENSCHEIN has discovered that an elastic mass resembling caoutchouc may be obtained by combining tungstate of soda with certain organic substances. If tungstic acid or tungstate of soda be added to glue, and afterward muriatic acid, a compound of tungstic acid glue is precipitated which is so elastic at 85-105° F., that it can be drawn out into very thin fibres. On cooling, the mass becomes very solid and brittle. It is proposed to employ this substance in the place of the costly albumen for mordanting cotton, especially for aniline colors.

The same material has been used in tanning leather; but this became hard as stone, and consequently unsuitable for ordinary purposes. By adding tungstate of soda and muriatic acid to a solution of gelatine, and heating the precipitate, a substance is obtained which may be used as a putty or cement in many cases.

THE child of a tobacconist named Lee, keeping a shop in Brownlow-hill, Liverpool, says the *Sheffield Times*, was taken ill of small-pox, and after a short illness apparently died. The body was laid out, and after the lapse of three days was placed in the coffin, when, to the surprise of all around, it uttered a cry, and awoke from what appeared to be a mere lethargy. The recovery, however, was not final, for in a few days afterward the child actually died.

## Reviews and Book Notices.

#### BOOK NOTICES.

**Minnesota: Its Character and Climate**; Likewise sketches of other resorts favorable to invalids; together with copious notes on health; also hints to tourists and emigrants. By Ledyard Bill. New York: Wood & Holbrook. 1871. pp. 204.

**Minnesota as a Home for Invalids.** By Brewer Mattock, M. D. Philadelphia. 1871. J. B. Lippincott & Co.; St. Paul: D. D. Melville, Randall & Co. 1871. 1 vol., 12mo., pp. 200.

The author of the last mentioned volume is President of the Board of Health, St. Paul, Minn., and

already somewhat known as a writer upon the climate and advantages of Minnesota. We should be glad to add that his work is a valuable addition to our books on medical climatology; but it has not so impressed us. On the contrary, it is in labored praise of the author's locality, slurring defects, exaggerating its merits, and what is still less excusable, depreciating invidiously all other competing health resorts. The latter trait is carried to such an absurd extent that the author actually asks credence for the following and similar statements: (The italics are his own.)

"Experience has taught us that the South is no place for an invalid, no matter what the disease. It is contrary to reason, to pathology—it is at variance even with the teachings of good sense." Yet trash of this kind he asks even physicians to accept!

A fair specimen of his reasoning may be seen in chapter iii, where he compares other climates, Madeira, Mentone, Malaga, etc., with Minnesota. He carefully quotes whatever drawbacks honest and intelligent observers and peevish invalids have remarked in these climates, and then proceeds to hold them in unfavorable comparison with Minnesota. The tone of the whole book is more similar to that of an ingenious advertisement than of a careful, unbiased treatise, and one feels very certain on laying it down that did Dr. Mattock practice in any other State he would have written a different and much better book on the subject.

While it is open to the serious objections we have thus stated, it also contains much useful information, statistical and sanitary, and will in many respects be found a convenient hand-book to the invalid tourist, who wishes to know something about the northwest.

The work of Mr. Bill is, however, much superior as a guide-book, and, in that respect, the best that has yet appeared on the locality of which it treats. He speaks from personal observation, and gives practical particulars, such as prices and routes, which are what the traveler wants to know. His fault is a weakness for second-hand moralizing on matters of health, and a leaning to the hobbies of the "hygienic school," of which he is evidently a member.

The chapter on "Hints to Invalids and Others" contains quite an amount of such padding, to which blank pages would have been preferable. That the use of pork "undeniably produces cancer" (p. 138), that pies are a "pestilence," and "takes a curse" (p. 136), that scrofula "may be directly traced" to wearing night-caps (p. 153), are specimens of the many puerilities that chapter contains. Mr. Bill can write a guide-book, and a good one, but when he assumes to play the medical adviser he but adds another to the many examples of shoemakers beyond their lasts, and detracts just that much from the worth of his production.

June 3, 1871.]

Editorial.

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MEDICAL AND SURGICAL REPORTER.

PHILADELPHIA, JUNE 3, 1871.

S. W. BUTLER, M. D., D. G. BRINTON, M. D., Editors.

Medical Society and Clinical Reports, Notes and Observations, Foreign and Domestic Correspondence, News, etc., etc., of general medical interest, are respectfully solicited.

Articles of special importance, such especially as require original experimental research, analysis, or observation, will be liberally paid for.

To insure publication, articles must be practical, *if* as possible to do justice to the subject, and *carefully prepared*, so as to require little revision.

We particularly value the practical experience of country practitioners, many of whom possess a fund of information that rightfully belongs to the profession.

The Proprietor and Editors disclaim all responsibility for statements made over the names of correspondents.

THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The meeting which was held this year in San Francisco, and which we report in the present number of THE REPORTER, seems to have been pretty much what it was last year—a scene of bickering, prejudice and parliamentary disorder. The secular press of San Francisco, hospitably inclined as it was to make the best of everything, and to wink at allowable peculiarities, appears to have been unanimous in condemning the spirit which governed—if it did not pervade—the Association.

The President, Dr. ALFRED STILLÉ, commenced the proceedings by an address which brought into prominence precisely those questions which were the cause of so much wrangling last year, and which most of the working members would gladly see eschewed altogether. Whether this was meant as a deliberate throwing of the glaive to all opponents, it is difficult to see, but it had this effect, and on the third and fourth days the time of the Association was largely occupied in mooting this unpleasant point.

A discussion on ethics occupied a goodly portion of the second day, the charge being that a member had written for a homœopathic journal—not, however, that he had written in favor of homœopathy, for this was not the case.

As for the scientific part of the meeting, the proceedings of the sections, to which we naturally turn with a sigh of relief after reading the minutes, they make but a poor appearance. Of some twenty committees, only two

or three sent in reports. That on Medical Education was forwarded with a letter from the chairman, Dr. GEDDING, of South Carolina, mournfully stating that he "neither expects or hopes for any good" from his labors in that field.

The resolutions of Dr. T. M. LOGAN deserve careful reading, and if the Association were fulfilling its right mission, we should see them soon take effect over our country; but we venture to predict that as they will neither serve to stimulate prejudice nor glorify individuals, nothing will be done with them.

The discussion of the woman question had one result which we were pleased to note; that is, it placed in its right light before the whole profession of the United States the petty and cowardly position assumed and now held by the Philadelphia County Medical Society on that subject. If that society has any self-respect, we should think it would extricate itself from the most unenviable and derogatory bondage in which it now is through the action of a minority in its membership.

In closing these few remarks, we have to acknowledge our indebtedness to the New York *Medical Gazette*, from which we have taken the minutes of the meeting, our own correspondent having failed to remit us in time.

THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The intolerance and bigotry of the medical profession are favorite topics with the New York *Tribune*, and we are very sorry when it has any support for such charges. In a late number, the Medical Association of the District of Columbia comes in for notice. The first grievance is, that it is a "close corporation." Well—is not every society a close corporation, having a perfect right to choose its own members, and make its own regulations? True, these regulations are open to criticism, and they are sometimes very absurd. But we are bound to admit that in this instance some of the New York *Tribune's* criticisms are in our view too well founded.

1st. We do not believe that any medical society has a right to make a regulation forbidding any of its members from consulting with any physician who is not a member, or to recognize such as a reputable practitioner on pain of expulsion. If the Association of

the District of Columbia have such a by-law, it should be repealed at once.

2d. We do not question the abstract right of the Medical Association of the District of Columbia to reject an applicant for membership merely on account of the color of his skin, but it is neither democratic, nor in accordance with the principles, which in every other country actuates the votaries of science. Education, attainments and regularity, and not the color of the skin, should be the tests.

3d. One applicant for membership, Dr. C. C. Cox, was rejected on a new, and we must say rather an extraordinary, ground. It seems that Dr. Cox is a member of the Board of Health, and that Dr. VERDI, a homeopathic practitioner, is also a member of the Board. They choose to construe this into consultation with an irregular practitioner. Ridiculous! Would they reject a man because he attended a patient in the same house in which a homeopath attended one—or put up at a hotel at which a homeopath put up? Surgeon General BARNES, and other prominent men of the profession, attended Secretary SEWARD when he was attacked by an assassin, though Dr. VERDI was the family physician, and, it was charged at the time, attended the honorable Secretary at the same time, though not in consultation. What did the Medical Association of the District of Columbia do about that? Are Surgeon General BARNES and other army medical officers in Washington members of the Association, and do its members consult with them? The fact is, the action of the Association in Dr. COX's case, we believe, was disingenuous. They have a special grievance against Dr. COX, and *anything* will serve some of the members—we scarcely believe a majority of them on a full vote—as an excuse for voting against him.

We wish that the Medical Association of the District of Columbia would yield to the dictates of reason and common sense, on two or three points that have, of late, placed it in a very undignified position before the medical profession and the public.

### Notes and Comments.

#### State Medical Society Meetings.

**Vermont Medical Society.**—The semi-annual meeting of this Society will be held at St. Albans, on Wednesday and Thursday, June 7th and 8th,

commencing at 11 A. M., on Wednesday. The accommodation trains from Rutland and Northfield reach St. Albans in season for the opening. The semi-annual address by the Vice President, Dr. A. J. HYDE, of Hardwick, will be delivered Wednesday evening. Papers on various medical subjects are expected from different members of the Society throughout the State. We urge all the members in the State to attend and take part in the proceedings.

**New Hampshire Medical Society.**—The State Medical Society of New Hampshire will meet at Concord on the 6th and 7th of next month.

**Medical Society of Pennsylvania.**—The twenty-second annual session of this Society will be held at Williamsport, June 14th.

#### An Important Expedition.

Dr. F. V. HAYDEN, U. S. Geologist and Professor of Mineralogy and Geology in the University of Pennsylvania, is about leaving for the West, to commence his explorations for this season. He expects to start from Ogden, Utah Territory, and will go into the Yellowstone country. He takes with him this year, from Philadelphia, CHAS. S. TURNBULL, M. D., as surgeon; GEO. B. DIXON, M. D., as assistant photographer, and A. C. PEALE, M. D., as mineralogist. These gentlemen are graduates of the University of Pennsylvania, of the class of 1871.

#### Medical Board.

A Medical Board, to consist of Surgeons T. F. MCPARLIN and Assistant Surgeons VAN BUREN HUBBARD and W. E. WATERS, has been ordered by the Secretary of War to convene at West Point on the first of June, next, for the examination of the graduating class of applicants for admission.

#### The Religious Press and Quack Advertising.

The late Prof. R. D. MUSSEY, M. D., of Cincinnati, a man distinguished alike for his medical and surgical abilities, and for his piety, would not take, or allow to come into his house, a religious paper that contained quack advertisements. Yet this class of advertisements seems to be the pap on which some of our religious papers live, and they seem to be always ready, besides, to give the puff editorial. The *Independent*, of New York, an otherwise excellent, and certainly well-edited paper, is given to quack advertising. It recently issued an extra edition of 100,000 copies for distribution as specimen numbers, making, probably, a total edition of over 150,000 copies for that week, requiring for the issue "more than thirty tons of white paper." The opportunity was too good a one to be lost by quack advertisers, one of whom, who may now rejoice in the title of "prince of empirics," spread

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himself to the extent of a whole page. Nor was this all—the editorial column of the paper had a mawkish, sickly, crawling, cringing sketch and puff of the great mogul who had paid it so much 'hard cash, that was quite incongruous with its name. Thus our "religious papers"

"Crook the pregnant hinges of the knees,  
That thrift may follow fawning."

## The Circulation of The Reporter.

A circular sent out from this office, in which we claim that THE REPORTER goes to "every State and Territory of the Union, and to many foreign countries, and its circulation never increased so rapidly as it is doing now," reached WILLIAM WOOD & Co., Publishers, of New York. They have returned the circular to us with those words erased, and the memorandum in the margin, "Is this *certainly* so? W. W. & Co." In answer, we have simply to say that we are not in the habit of claiming what is not true, and if WILLIAM WOOD & Co. really have doubts of the truth of the statement, we are ready to prove it from our mail-books.

We hope they can say as much of their excellent bi-monthly, the *Medical Record*.

[The above delicate compliment was paid us while we were confined to bed by sickness, or it would have received an earlier notice.]

## Chloroforming.

A Baltimore surgeon scouts the idea that men can be chloroformed while awake, insisting that no man wide-awake and sober can possibly be chloroformed without his acquiescence, unless forcibly held; and that, even if a sober man were asleep, the irritation of the air-passages caused by the chloroform would almost certainly rouse him.

Well taken! Statements are frequently made to the effect that persons have been robbed, women outraged, and various other villainies performed, while the only excuse given to account for the opportunity was that a handkerchief with chloroform on it was flirted in the face! This is nonsense! It cannot be done. Surgeons find that in the most susceptible cases, with the anesthetic closely applied to the nose and mouth, some time must elapse before the party becomes unconscious. Some other theory must therefore be started to account for outrages committed when such an excuse is given.

## Small-Pox in New York.

If a shrewd empiric should advertise a cordial or syrup—only \$1 a bottle—which he claimed was a sure preventive of small-pox, how eagerly it would be bought up and how rapidly, for a time, would the empiric's fortune grow! Yet the medical profession

has a sure preventive of small-pox in vaccination, and it is next to impossible to get the public to avail themselves of it. Consequently we are obliged to read such reports as the following from New York:

The Register of Records reports the total number of deaths from small-pox last week (ending May 20) 21, of which 19 occurred at the hospital. During that period the vaccinating corps visited 7,298 families and vaccinated 1,057 persons therein. Children vaccinated in the public schools, 3,223. Total vaccinations for the week, 5,180. Of these, 619 were primary, and 4,561 secondary. The number of patients in hospital to-day is 131.

Concerning the ravages of the disease in European cities, with which we are in constant communication, the Register says:

"While small-pox in New York is fluctuating with a tendency to decline, in London it has been manifesting renewed activity, its fatal cases during the week ending May 6th having reached 288, the highest weekly number attained in the present epidemic, and almost three times as great as the largest number returned in any week of the several outbreaks between 1840 and 1871. During the week mentioned it produced 55 deaths in Liverpool, 22 in Southampton, and 16 in Newcastle-on-Tyne, the other large cities of the United Kingdom being almost exempt from it. Its persistency in London and Liverpool is remarkable. It likewise continues very prevalent in Brussels, where, during the week ending April 29, it caused 40 deaths.

"We are apprised by the resumption of Dr. ZUELZER's returns from Berlin, so long interrupted by the war, that Berlin also has been suffering from the ravages of small-pox, which, during the week ending the 4th instant, occasioned 98 deaths out of a total of 523, in a population of about 800,000."

## Garretson's Diseases and Surgery of the Mouth, Jaws and Associate Parts.

It is with great satisfaction that we learn from the publisher of the marked success of this work—the demand growing for it from the day of its publication. What this book is may very well be understood from Dr. Willard's reports of the "Author's Clinics." It tells in a way that anybody can easily understand all about the diseases of the parts treated of—passing step by step from a simple toothache to the most complex features of oral surgery. We cannot but express the trust that each of our readers has it upon his library shelves.

## More Progress.

At the recent meeting of the Alumni Association of the City of New York, resolutions were offered complimenting the Faculty on the advance movements made by them in medical instruction, and respectfully submitting to the Faculty the questions of the expediency of still further advancing the cause of medical education, by an increase in the length of the regular winter session, and the division of the students into junior and senior classes.

## Extraordinary Longevity of Physicians.

Of thirteen Fellows of the New York Academy of Medicine who have been elected to preside over that body, nine have been removed by death. The average age of these departed Presidents, at the time of their decease, was sixty-five years, and excluding one who died prematurely, of malignant disease in his fifty-ninth year, their average age was seventy-eight years.

The author of the first article in THE REPORTER of last week is H. L. W. Burritt, and not Elihu Burritt, as printed.

## Correspondence.

## DOMESTIC.

## A Therapeutic Science.

## EDS. MED. AND SURG. REPORTER:

The repeated editorial remarks, original contributions and clippings in your much valued paper (without which I would not be, except I wished to lose all hold upon the progress of the healing art,) touching upon special remedial agents, or upon the consideration of a therapeutic science, have caused the enclosed sketch.

Professor P. D. DRAPER, in his last valedictory, told clearly how far we are justified in speaking of a therapeutic science: "Gentlemen," he said, "you enter upon the pursuit of your profession with twenty remedies for each disease; but you will soon find that you have twenty diseases without any remedy." The uncertainty in regard to this subject is owing, I think, to the great range that is given to the action of many remedies. We speak of restoratives acting upon the blood; of agents counteracting scrofula; of tonics, eliminants, astringents, etc., and would wonder how small a part of the body is affected, little deserving such circumscribing names. It would, even for therapeutics, be of advantage if we would put at the heading of our articles Harvey's great words, only modified as follows: "*Omne vivum et morte e cella nati sunt.*" (Even as to the smallness of such productions.) Then we would not only have the groundwork for physiology and pathology, but also the text to therapeutic science.

As death is the other pole to life, and the stations between, the different degrees of health and disease, it is certain, provided both are attributes of a cell, that health and disease must be found in the cells only, and that therapeutics find their province in the cells of organs, and not in the organs themselves. The lung is not diseased, but the cells constituting the lung matter, the mucous mem-

branes, and the mass of the nerve and blood vessels. We find, in the one case, many medicines to cure the lung disease, but in the latter only one remedy (or its substitute, it being the same, except by name,) either *pro or con.*

I cannot help but assert the following:

1. That all organs of the body must be present, if only in a rudimentary form, when the fetus commences to receive its food through the mother.
2. That the future nourishment of every organ is regulated by the different degrees of porosity existing in the cell walls of its cells.
3. That such nourishment, together with the contents of the cells, constitute the different cells of the body, consequently forming the different organs also.
4. That nothing will interfere with the physiological function of the cells (excretion and secretion), except it enter them and mingle with their contents (excepting their natural food be below or above the desired supply).
5. That any substance entering the cells, either by itself or through its combination with the cell contents, will create disease if it cannot be thrown off through its excretory channels.
6. That the disease will exist as long as such excretion cannot be effected, and if not at all, death will follow. (That is, of the cell, and perhaps as a consequence death of the whole body.)
7. That no matter can be a remedy, except it act as a dilatory to the excretory channels of the cell.
8. That the action of a medicine of necessity a mixture of one or two agents will be complete, if it restricts the entrance of foreign matter to the cell contents.
9. And that the cell-health is restored if such restriction does not hazard the admission of matter normally necessary.
10. *All medicines act either as restrictors or as dilators to the cell walls, after having entered such cells, the action being created by themselves, or as a production of their combination with the cell contents.*

Permit me to think that the last assertion does cover the action of all and every remedial agent, and if such be the case, may I not justly expect that a hold is given to scientific men to form a "Therapeutic Science?" Respectfully yours,

A. S. V. MANSFELDE, M. D.  
Chicago, Ill., May, 1871.

## Carbolic Acid Applied to a Burn.

## EDS. MED. &amp; SURG. REPORTER:

Feb. 20, 1871, 9 A. M., a colored boy, set. 4, was severely burned by his clothes taking fire. When called, I took a vial containing carbolic acid and soon arrived. Both hands were burned to a blister, and the right wrist and forearm were also involved.

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Saturating cotton batting with a solution of the acid, I wrapped the burnt surface completely, and fastened it by means of stockings drawn up above the elbows. Within half an hour the pain was so much relieved that the sufferer went to sleep. On the 22d removed the dressing from the right hand; found no appearance of inflammation. For a week or two I changed the dressings once in two or three days, after which they were not touched oftener than necessary to apply clean bandages. Although the right wrist was very deeply burned, and so as to interfere with the muscles and tendons pertaining to the movement of the little finger, healing went on rapidly. There was strangury on the second day, but no other general disturbance.

As an anæsthetic it was very decided in its effects. But very little pus formed, and the parts were free from inflammation during the whole time occupied in healing. There was no disagreeable odor, although the injury was deep, and the denuded surface considerable.

F. K. BAILEY, M. D.

Knoxville, Tenn., May, 1871.

## NEWS AND MISCELLANY.

**Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania.** The Twenty-Second Annual Session will be held at Williamsport, Pa., on Wednesday, June 14th, 1871.

All who desire to attend must send their names, with stamp, for excursion tickets to the Secretary.

WM. B. ATKINSON,  
1400 Pine Street.

**The Greene County (Pa.) Medical Society.** The Greene County Medical Society held its regular semi-annual meeting at the Downey House, Waynesburg, on the 9th inst. An election of officers took place, resulting in the election of P. L. Kramer, President; B. M. Blachley, Vice President; W. S. Throckmorton, Rec. Secretary; L. H. Laidley, Corresponding Secretary; D. W. Braden, Treasurer. Delegates to State Medical Society—D. W. Braden, J. B. Laidley, W. S. Throckmorton, P. L. Kramer. Alternates—Geo. W. Moss, John A. Stone, B. M. Blachley, Geo. F. Birch.

The Society held both a pleasant and profitable meeting.

### New York Ophthalmic and Aural Institute.

The Board of Trustees of the New York Ophthalmic and Aural Institute, No. 46 East Twelfth street, held its second annual session on May 15th, and listened to the reports of the officers, as follows:

The Dispensary has been conducted purely as a charity. The number treated was 3,115, of whom 2,466 had diseases of the eye, and 646 diseases of the ear, showing an increase over the first year of 70 per cent. In the Indoor Department, which is not exclusively a charity, 256 patients were treated for severe diseases, the majority of which required surgical operations. The total number of operations was unexpectedly large, being 422 for diseases of the eye, and 34 for diseases of the ear—an increase over the preceding year of 100 per cent. Medical lectures have been given by the surgeon in charge, free to physicians and the students of all the Medical Colleges. The financial report shows a deficit of \$5,000, which had been liquidated by Dr. Knapp from his private resources. The average attendance was 125, the number of new patients on some days reaching 30. The report was adopted with a vote of thanks to Dr. Knapp, surgeon in charge. Nelson J. Waterbury stated that had he secured from the State an appropriation of \$2,000, and from the city a similar sum, making \$4,000 in all, double the bequests of last year.

The officers of the Institute were reelected for the coming year as follows: Frederick S. Winston, President; Dr. Gurdon Buck, Vice-President; Eugene S. Ballin, Treasurer; Philip Bissinger, Secretary.

### Sanity of Ruloff the Murderer.

DRS. JOHN P. GRAY and S. OAKLEY VANDERPOOL, commissioners appointed by Gov. Hoffman to visit Ruloff in his cell and investigate the question of his sanity, reported May 12th. Ruloff did not anticipate their visit, and when told of their object said: "Gentlemen, this is no work of mine; I don't pretend to be either insane or an idiot. I am feeble in body, as you may see; but this has not affected my mind. The proposal of a commission is no move of mine."

The report gives a minute description of his personal appearance and physical condition, and such an account of his history as he wished to narrate. He dwelt at length on all the attacks of illness which he had ever suffered. He did not think his health broken down. "I cannot," said he, "run three times across this room (about 30 feet) without feeling it greatly. I have been in this condition about 15 or twenty years, and particularly since 1853. I have palpitation of the heart and difficulty of breathing, and sudden and violent exertion sometimes throws me into convulsions. This latter state has existed for 15 or 20 years. I am now 50 years old, and since I was 35 this inability to endure fatigue has existed."

The examination then branched off to his philosophical studies, on which he dwelt at length. Ques-

tions were then put to decide his mental condition, of which the following are specimens :

Q. How do you account for the human mind, in reasoning, going beyond the necessities incidental to this life in its expression and contemplation, to seek a creating power? A. Mind expresses absurdities as well as truths.

Q. How can a mind act absurdly, if its existence be simply the result of a physical organization, that organization being necessarily governed by definite laws? A. If there were no possibility of error, there would be no need of mind to guide.

Q. What is the need of a guide when error has no responsibility—if, with the death of the body, all existence ends? A. This brings up the reserve question; I have the mystery of existence before me, in my judgment that is the end of speculation.

Q. Is speculation beyond that legitimate? A. It is as to possibility, but not as to probability of fact. Social duties remain even if you believe that death is the end.

Q. Do you owe any obligation to any being beyond this present life for conduct here? A. I feel the possibility of it, but the evidence before me is not sufficient to satisfy me that I do.

Q. Do you believe that there is any rule of action in the conduct of life that man can adopt which will enable him to appreciate his responsibilities or understand the relations that he may have to another world? A. Intelligence is the only guide.

Q. Do you believe that God has in any way revealed himself to man? A. As I come to see more of the wondrous relation of things the more the mystery deepens, but it does not help me to any conclusion. The idea of reward of meritorious conduct would prevent me from doing an act rather than the opposite. The word "reveal" has in my system of mythology given me great trouble for ten years, but now the truth dawns upon me.

Q. Is there any law then in this life, except civil law, by which we are held amenable for reward or punishment? A. Yes.

Q. Any reward or punishment that should come from any other being except man himself? A. I see the drift of the question. It involves the same mystery.

Q. Would the fact of another existence, and that existence one of rewards and punishments for your conduct in this life, make any difference to you in regard to your acts? A. No. I should do as I intended without regard to the existence of a God, or a Devil, a Heaven, or a Hell. I have felt this pride during my whole life. I never wished to get anything out of anybody.

"Your Commissioners, therefore," the report concludes, "in view of the examination, are of the opinion that Edward H. Ruloff is in sound physical health, and entirely sane."

#### Iowa State Medical Society.

The Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the Iowa State Medical Society was held in Des Moines, Iowa, April 19th and 20th, 1871. The number in attendance was unusually large, and all parts of the State were represented. Dr. S. B. THRALL, of Ottumwa, occupied the chair *pro tem.*; Dr. GEO. P. HANNAWALT, Secretary. Among the valuable papers presented were: On Medical Inhalation, by Dr. W. S. Robertson; The Endoscope and its Uses, by Dr. W. Peck; On the Use of Obstetrical Instruments, by Dr. J. W. H. Baker; On the Use of the Ophthalmoscope, by Dr. E. H. Hazen; Ethics, Dr. F. Lloyd; Anæsthetics, Dr. A. M. Carpenter; Carbolic Acid, Dr. J. H. Boncher; and On Insanity, by Dr. Williamson. Interesting verbal reports of special cases were made. Resolutions were offered by Dr. J. F. Kennedy, and unanimously adopted, approving the late organization of "The American Association for the cure of Inebriates," and adopting its Declaration of Principles. The officers for the ensuing year are, President, A. G. Field, of Des Moines; Vice President, J. M. Robertson, of Muscatine; Secretary, Geo. P. Hannawalt; Treasurer, J. W. Sentine; and Corresponding Secretary, J. F. Ely. The next meeting will be held at Des Moines the first Wednesday in May, 1872. The proceedings throughout were harmonious, and in many respects it was one of the most interesting sessions ever held.

REPORTER.

Des Moines, May 16, 1871.

#### Are Vulcanite Dental Plates Injurious?

This question is discussed by F. W. CLARK, S. B., in the *American Chemist*:

For two years past it has been my lot to lecture upon chemistry in the Boston Dental College. And, quite naturally, one of the questions which I am oftenest asked by unsupercilious friends is, whether the vulcanite plates upon which artificial teeth are set are injurious to health? The vulcanite being colored with vermillion, the popular prejudices against mercury are occasionally aroused with regard to it.

I have been in some measure forced to make inquiries in the matter. And for the benefit of those who may desire to know what little is known upon the subject, I have written the results of my inquiries.

In the first place, the question is not settled. Some hold that vulcanite plates are poisonous, while others believe them to be in all cases harmless. All I can do, then, is to balance probabilities. Now, there are some cases in which the wearing of a vulcanite plate has been attended by sore mouth. But, on the other hand, similar soreness, some dentists assert, is frequently caused by gold plates.

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Unfortunately there are no statistics by which we can determine the relative values of gold and vulcanite as regards health. If it should be shown that gold plates produced soreness as often as vulcanite, then it would be clearly unsafe for us to ascribe the occasional ill effects of the latter to the mercury contained in it. It might be possible that some tender mouths would be irritated by any kind of plate.

Again, thousands upon thousands of vulcanite plates are worn, and the cases of injury are comparatively rare. Therefore it is well to bear in mind, in any case in which sore mouth *might* be ascribable to the mercury in the rubber, that it is quite possible that the soreness is due to some other cause. A man may have a sore mouth and wear a vulcanite plate, without the former being in any sense a consequence of the latter. There are such things as coincidences.

Taking all into account, then, it seems that there cannot be much danger in wearing vulcanite plates. That there *may* be some, I admit, but it is not proved that there is. It is certain that, in the vast majority of cases, there are no ill effects directly attributable to the mercury. Indeed, the metal is combined in such a form that it is hard to see how it should cause injury to any one. The sulphide is not likely to be attacked by the fluids of the mouth, and ought, theoretically, to be wholly inactive under the circumstances. Therefore, it seems to me, no person need reasonably be deterred from wearing a vulcanite plate by any fear of possible injury from it. The chances of injury, if any possibility of injury exists, are so slight that they may be practically disregarded. The most prudent people run greater risks of injury to health in their daily diet than they are ever likely to incur by wearing vulcanite.

#### The Strangers' Hospital.

*The New York Medical Journal* says :

In alluding to our new charities, we must not omit to mention this splendid institution, which has been erected and equipped by the munificence of a single individual, Mr. Keyser, of this city. This hospital is located at the corner of Avenue D and Tenth street, a portion of the city far away from the public hospitals, and yet crowded with a population compelled by their poverty largely to rely upon such institutions in case of sickness. The building will accommodate about two hundred patients, and, in its appointments, is certainly one of the completest hospitals in this city. Everything has been subordinated to the convenience and comfort of the patients, and it is doubtful if there can be found in the country any more perfect provision for ventilation, heating, and water-supply and

waste than is to be seen here. All his work has been done under the personal, almost constant supervision of the donor, who, beside the expenditures necessitated in the construction and outfit, amounting to upward of one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars, also provides the means for the current expenses of the institution. Such noble charity as this carries its own reward, and yet none the less on that account ought it to receive the commendation and gratitude of all classes and professions. The attending medical staff consists of Drs. F. N. Otis, T. G. Thomas, H. B. Sands and William H. Draper, assisted Drs. R. W. Taylor, James L. Brown, T. T. Sabine and E. C. Seguin. Dr. Samuel Kennedy is the resident physician. We think we are violating no confidence when we state that much of the admirable and complete arrangement of the institution may be credited to the labors of Dr. Otis, who, during the construction of the hospital, was in almost daily consultations with Mr. Keyser, giving him advice, derived from a large and ripe experience, as to the necessities and properties of a hospital building.

#### Abortionists in New York.

*The New York Medical Journal* says :

In the trial of one M. A. A. Wolf, a well-known abortionist, of this city, for inducing abortion, and thereby causing the death of a patient under his charge, the Assistant District Attorney (Mr. Fellows) thus pointedly referred to another well-known representative of this infamous class, who occupies one of the most palatial residences on Fifth Avenue :

"I have a right to refer to that den of shame in our most crowded street, where every brick in that splendid mansion might represent a little skull, and the blood that infamous woman has shed might have served to mix the mortar with which that palace of iniquity was built. When I see American mothers with servants in livery, and all the evidence of splendor and wealth, frequenting those bloody courts and contributing to keep up this woman in her extravagance and licentiousness, I, in common with my fellow-citizens, should become indignant at this blot on the otherwise fair name of our city. It is not so much that the crime exists, but that it is not the only crime in the catalogue which defies the courts and juries. If there is anything that adds to the atrocity of this crime, it is that the men and women who commit it take professional titles. What right has this infamous woman, by whose den of shame and blood we have to ride to get to the fairest scenes in our city—erected there as the old dragon's castle was, close by the gates of the fabled Eden—to take the title 'madame' upon her lips! 'Madame RESTELL,' forsooth! Madame

**Murderer, Madame Abortionist!** And "Doctor" EVANS and "Doctor" WOLF—are they entitled to the name of doctor? Are they regular physicians? The defendant nods his head—then so much the deeper and darker, and more damning his iniquity."

We are pleased to learn that the defendant in this trial was found guilty, and was promptly sentenced to seven years' imprisonment in the State-prison at Sing Sing.

#### The Sanitary Commission.

The Sanitary Commission, appointed early last December to bury the dead around Metz, has completed its labors, having been hard at work during the last six months. The area under the charge of the Commission comprised a circle of nine miles radius, where 25,000 human bodies lay half, or not even half, buried, and where numberless dead horses were decomposing in the open air. The report of the Commission states that all the bodies have been carefully interred, and the graves properly disinfected with lime. The battle-fields were also plowed up and sowed with grain and pulse. The growing crops were mowed frequently, in order, by their rapid vegetation, to assist the decomposition of the animal matter. Extensive plantations of trees were also made around Metz to aid in removing the miasma. Four companies of German sappers and miners were engaged in the work of removing the bodies, and the graves were dug by companies of the landwehr.

#### Carbolic Acid in Plants.

Carbolic acid, it is reported, has been extracted from the "Andromeda Leschenaultii," a common plant growing abundantly on the Neillgherry hills, in the East Indies. The acid which has been extracted from this plant by Mr. BROUGHTON, the Government chemist, differs in some respects from that obtained from coal tar, being less deliquescent and far more pure. It is therefore believed that this new product would be an excellent substitute for ordinary carbolic acid for administration as a medicine. Although the plant is inexhaustible the process of extraction of the acid is costly, and this fact will interfere with its use. The East India Government, however, considers the discovery as important, since in case of war the supply of carbolic acid would not depend on America.

#### Northern Plants.

The active principles of plants, according to recent investigations, are more concentrated in the leaves of plants grown in cold climates where the vegetation is less vigorous, than in warm climates. In illustration, the well-known facts are cited, that tobacco grown in northern regions is stronger than the same plant raised in mild or tropical regions; and celery, it is stated, is affected in the same way by the influences of temperature and moisture.

#### QUERIES AND REPLIES.

**Dr. W. C. P., of Ill.**—We consider DA COSTA'S *Medical Diagnosis* the best work on that branch. Price, \$6.00.

**Dr. J. E. M., of Mo.**—Cohen on Inhalation costs \$2.50.

**An Old Subscriber.**—There is no late and complete monograph on Anesthesia. The periodical press and standard works are very full upon it.

**Dr. W. J. O. of N. Y.**—The so-styled "University" in this city you inquire about is entitled to no respect, and the book on medicine and surgery, published by its "Dean," is one we do not recommend.

**Dr. J. F. P. of Md.**—The case of eversion of the limb, resulting from paralysis, could, undoubtedly, be benefited by a properly constructed orthopedic apparatus, but the child should visit the manufacturer, so that an appliance could be made to fit exactly.

#### Errata.

**Dr. C. J. K. of Ills.**—Occasional verbal errors are unavoidable in proof reading. Any important one, such as a mistake in a prescription, we will always correct as soon as pointed out. But slighter ones are best summed up in a list of errata at the end of each volume of a serial publication.

#### Mixed Liquors.

**Dr. R. S. of Mo.**—We do not see why taking different liquors, in rapid succession, should produce intoxication sooner than the same amount of alcohol imbibed in one form in the same period. We know there is a general belief that it does; but our experience is limited in such matters, and we hardly count ourselves first-class authority.

#### MARRIED.

**BULL—BLONDEL.**—May 18, at Grace Church, New York, by Henry C. Potter, D. D., Richard W. Bull, M. D., and Miss Elizabeth Blondel, both of that city.

**CLARK—ALDRICH.**—In Glover, Illinois, (?) April 30, Dr. E. W. Clark, of Charleston, and Isadore M. Aldrich, of Glenview.

**DE LUNA—NARAMORE.**—May 18, at the West Thirty-fourth Street Reformed Church, New York, by Rev. Isaac Riley, Abelardo B. DeLuna, M. D., and Susie W. Naramore.

**KISTLER—SEIBERLING.**—May 2, 1871, at the residence of the bride's father, by Rev. H. Fegely, W. K. Kistler, M. D., and Miss Emma C. Seiberling, of Seiberlingville, Pa.

**LAMME—ADAMS.**—By Rev. W. T. Adams, assisted by Rev. Samuel Wilson, D. D., and Rev. R. Conover, May 2d, in El Paso, Ill., D. W. Lamme, M. D., and Miss Jennie L. Adams, daughter of the officiating clergyman.

**MOORE—GRAY.**—May 4, 1871, at the residence of the bride's father, Mr. H. E. Gray, Oakland, Chester co., Pa. Dr. J. H. B. Moore, of Unionville, Chester county, and Dr. J. Gray, of Oakland, Chester co., Pa.

**PALMER—ALDRICH.**—By Rev. A. A. Dinsmore, April 12th, in Des Moines, Iowa, George A. Palmer, M. D., and Miss Julia M. Aldrich, both of Sneed Point, Iowa.

**PIKE—LAWRENCE.**—By the Rev. Dr. Cunningham, on May 18th, at the residence of the bride's parents, Dr. Charles E. Pike and Miss Sallie Lawrence, all of Philadelphia.

**TERBUSH—LOCKER.**—May 23d, in Harmar, Ohio, by the Rev. William Wakefield, assisted by the Rev. R. H. Wallace, Dr. S. J. Torburgh, of Pittsburgh, and Miss Louisa W. Locker, of Harmar.

**WEBER—SEISER.**—May 22d, by the Rev. W. J. Mann, D. D., J. Weber, M. D., and Miss Lavinia Seiser, both of this city.

#### DIED.

**BACKUS.**—At Berlin, Prussia, on April 23d, John S. Backus, M. D., son of the Rev. John C. Backus, of Baltimore, Md.

**FREEMAN.**—At New York, on Monday, May 21st, Ann E., wife of Norman K. Freeman, M. D., in her 53d year.

**NASH.**—In this city, May 21st, Walter Greenleaf, only child of Dr. J. D. and Florence E. Nash, aged four and a half months.

**NOBLE.**—In this city, May 21st, after a long sickness, Mary E., daughter of Dr. Charles and Adeline Noble, in the 30th year of her age.

**ROGERS.**—In Cincinnati, May 19th, of pulmonary disease, Lelia T., eldest daughter of Dr. L. M. and Anna E. Rogers.

**TARRELL.**—In Vassalboro', Me., Howard W., son of Maximus P. and Edward A. Tarbell, M. D., aged 3 months and 10 days.